powers to States must go together and is committed to continuing its endeavour to evolve a broad consensus on the implementation of steps for wide ranging devolution of powers to the States that leads to efficiency in administration, acceleration in development and fullest realization of the creative potential of all sections of our people.

Powers to N.H.R.C.

†1919. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any recommendation from the Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission to provide them more powers to remove the obstacles in controlling the encroachment on civil liberties;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the Commission is concerned as it has not received any response from Government on its recommendations;

(c) if so, whether it is also a fact that a number of States have not taken any steps so far to set up Human Rights Commission; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) The National Human Rights Commission has sent a proposal suggesting amendments in various sections of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. The proposal is being examined by the Government.

(c) and (d) As per available information, the State Governments of Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Bihar have set up State Human Rights Commission in their respective States. The State Governments of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

have also decided to set up State Commissions. The Union Government has reminded the State Governments which have not set up State Commissions to expedite their decision.

Vigil on Line of Control

1920. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether is a fact that at least 6,000 foreigners, including Iranians, Sudanese and Arabs, are being trained in various camps in Pakistan for infiltrating into India; and

(b) if so, the action taken to keep more vigil on the Line of Control to thwart the ultras trained in Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) As per available information battle hardened foreign mercenaries from countries inimical to India like Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sudan etc. are infiltrated to intensify and upgrade the violence in the country. Training to these mercenaries is reportedly imparted in camps in various parts of Pakistan.

However, to check infiltration and terrorist incidents in the State, the Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach to curb terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, which includes, *inter-alia*, strengthening border management, dynamic deployment/redeployment of Security Forces, neutralising plans of the militants by pro-active action against them in the hinterland, including conduct of special operations, setting up nakas and ambushes, gearing up intelligence machinery, greater functional integration through an institutional frame work of Operation Groups and Intelligence Groups of the UHQ at all levels, setting up of Village Defence Committees, setting up of outposts of the Security Forces and regular patrolling, improved technology, weapons and equipments for security forces etc. As part of J and K Action Plan 1998, the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir has been advised to issue photo identity card to all male